1:Stanford U. S-4, 5 1956 AF14 Central China AF14

Chinese Communist sources state that Yao people have strictly forbidden their children to intermarry with the Han Chinese since the latter are hated and distrusted by the Yao people.[24] Taking account of the Kuomintang government's desire to assimilate the minorities, and the Communists' exaggeration of minority sufferings under "undemocratic government," the real attitude of the Yao toward the Han Chinese must be somewhere between the two extremes. One must not ignore the fact that the superiority of Han Chinese culture is readily recognized by the Yao people, and this recognition often leads to ready assimilation of the Yao people into Han communities, provided that the latter do not raise too high a barrier against the Yao. The hardships of the Yao people are due to the following conditions detrimental to a prosperous community:

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1. Yao peasants have to pay high rent for land under their cultivation; not infrequently, rent runs as high as 70 per cent of the total crop yield.

2. The land under their cultivation is generally low in productivity; consequently, Yao peasants are usually short of food a part of every year. To alleviate the situation, Yao peasants

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24. Min-tsu Cheng-t'se Wen-hsien Hui-pien, p. 103. (cited above).

1:Stanford U. S-4, 5 1956 AF14 Central China AF14

involved 21,900,000 members, or 73 per cent of the total population of 30,000,000. Among the workers in twelve cities and the laborers employed at the Hsin Yü coal mines, 71,711, or 47 per cent, of a total of 152,613 men, were members of the trade union.[10]

In ten hsiang in Chia county, 223 landlord families and 283 rich peasant families, 9 per cent of the population of 5,863 families, owned more than 1,900 mou (about 316 acres) of land before the "Liberation" -- 49 per cent of the land in the ten hsiang. Although the anti-despot movement and the rent-reduction movement had reduced their holdings, the average acreage owned by "landlords" and "rich peasants" remained nearly twice as much as that owned by the peasants and hired farmers. After reform, the average amount of land owned by the "landlord" became 1.46 mou (about 1/6 of an acre), that of the poor peasants was raised to 1.5 mou, that of the rich peasants to 1.9 mou, and that of the middle peasants was increased from 2 mou to 2.7 mou.[11] These figures suggest how sweeping the land reform movement was. Land reform was of first importance to the Communist regime because its inauguration gained the support of the peasants who formed the majority of the population.

Hupeh Province, in the Yangtze Valley, has a greater concentration of industry than the neighboring Honan Province. As in other provinces, land reform became a major part of the Communist program in Hupeh. Li Hsien-nien, chairman of Hupeh, reported that the movement for rent re-

10. Ibid., p. 828.
11. Ibid., p. 828.

1:Stanford U. S-4, 5 1956 AF14 Central China AF14

duction was successfully concluded about October 1950, and that approximately 206,500,000 catties (227,150,000 lbs.) of rice had been refunded to poor tenant farmers. Peasants' associations, with a total membership of 4,141,466, were organized in 15,175 hsiang throughout the province. One-fourth of the members were women. As a result of the organization of the peasants' associations, the power of government passed into the hands of Communist officials in 5,190 hsiang, although in the remaining 9,985 hsiang the change was only a partial one.[12]

Since the Chinese Communists well knew that popular support was necessary for a strong government, they had the wisdom to establish the Peasants' Association, which in a certain way worked as an informal representatives' conference before the regime was able to establish a formal one in each hsiang or county.

Wang Shou-tao, chairman of Hunan Province, mentioned in his report of June 1950[13] that there were 14,830 hsiang in the province, and that Peasants' Associations had been formed in 19,564 hsiang, with a total membership of 5,730,000. Chin Ming, chairman of the Land Reform Committee of Hunan, reported in October 1950 that, because there were 28,000,000 people in the two municipalities and 77 counties of Hunan, it would be necessary to limit land reform to 33 counties with a total population of 17,000,000. He expected that within a year or two the work of land

12. Li Hsien-nien, "Hu-pei-sheng Jen-min Cheng-fu I-nien-lai Shih-cheng Pao-kao Yu Chin-hou Jen-wu ["Report on Last Year's Administration and Future Tasks of the Hupeh People's Government"], Ibid., p. 862.

13. [following page] .

reform could be completed.